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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clauses (b) and (c) of the question, I am asking the Government to state the reasons on which they say that it is not their policy to help the South Indian Railway Company to crush the labour movement in that company, when distinguished leaders and responsible leaders of the movement like Messrs. Joshi and Giri have stated in their statement that these orders under section 144 could be justified only on the assumption that the labour movement has to be crushed ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is their opinion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Government have examined the matter and can give any reasons in their opinion for controverting their statements ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes. Government have examined the question thoroughly and have come to the deliberate conclusion that they should not in any way interfere in disputes between the company and the workers ; but so far as this order against these gentlemen is concerned, it was issued by the magistrate for the express and sole purpose of preventing the possibility of a breach of the peace."

Forests

Permission to villagers to hunt wild animals in the forests in South Kanara.

*368 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a notification has been recently published permitting villagers to hunt wild animals in reserved forests in the South Kanara district after obtaining the Collector's permission on every occasion ;

(b) whether hunting had so far been allowed with the permission of the officers of the Forest department ; and

(c) if so, why it is now further restricted by making it obligatory to get the Collector's previous permission on every occasion ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The object was to prevent the indiscriminate killing of wild animals. The question of removing this restriction is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" In answer to clause (c) of the question, it is stated that the object was to prevent the indiscriminate killing of wild animals. May I know whether any instances of such indiscriminate killing of wild animals have come to the notice of Government ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government understand it from the reports of the Collector."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" As to that answer, viz., to prevent indiscriminate killing of wild animals, is there such a thing as discriminate killing of wild animals ? (Laughter.) "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Yes. The notification is directed solely to discriminate killing."

Mr. Mahmud Schamnad :—" In the answer to clause (*c*) it is stated that the question of removing the restriction is under consideration. May I know how long this question has been under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" It has been under the consideration of Government for the last two or three weeks.'

Increase of wild animals in South Kanara district.

* 369 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been an enormous increase of wild animals, especially tigers, panthers, elephants and boars on account of the extension and increase of reserved forests in this Presidency, especially in South Kanara ;

(*b*) whether registers are kept of the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals in the villages adjoining forests in the several districts of this Presidency, and if so, what is the number of cattle so destroyed during the year ending 30th June 1928 in the several districts ; and

(*c*) what action Government have taken or propose to take to check the increase of wild animals that are likely to destroy cattle and cultivation ?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the report of the Collector of South Kanara placed on the Council table in connection with Legislative Council Question No. 1424 answered on 25th January 1928.

(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Register No. 19 III at page 122 of the Revised Forms of village accounts. The Government have no information concerning the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals during the year ending 30th June 1928 in the villages adjoining forests.

(*c*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 854 asked by Mr. D. Manjayya Heggade on 2nd November 1925 and to the report of the Collector of South Kanara referred to in clause (*a*) above. The Government have recently issued orders allowing the villagers to hunt wild animals in certain portions of reserved forests in South Kanara during the period July to January of the year.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" As to clause (*b*), it is stated that the Government have no information concerning the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals during the year. May I enquire whether Government think that this destruction of cattle by wild animals is such a small thing, and that they cannot get the information on this subject ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The benefit likely to be derived from the enquiry is not proportionate to the trouble required for the enquiry."